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30593	7590	08/28/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			SHAH, AMEE A	
P.O. BOX 8910			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
RESTON, VA 20195			3625	

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/756,382		NORDLUND ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Amea A. Shah		3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/27/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-32 are pending in this action.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "9". The drawings are further objected to because reference numbers 1, 3 and 5 all appear to be pointing to the same blank space, and not to an apparatus, system and network as claimed in the specification.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains the language "is disclosed." Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should

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be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details. The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim 16 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 16 is merely a statement and no claim is asserted. For purposes of this action only, the Examiner will interpret that claim as a dependency of claim 14.

Claims 17-32 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 17 contains the limitation "and a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1..." in lines 2-3. It is unclear whether this claim is a dependency of claim 1 or incorporates the subject matter of claim 1 as an element. Because claims 18-32 are dependencies of claim 17, they inherit the same deficiency and are objected to on the same bases. For purposes of this action only, the Examiner interprets the claim to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 as an element.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "at least one digital image print right equivalence table" in lines 2-3 of the claim. It is not clear to one of ordinary skill in the art what it meant by an equivalence table. The specification gives an "illustrating, and non-limiting, example" of an equivalence table as table with products in column A related to a number of prints in column B related to a specific subscription (page 11). However, it is not clear how the apparatus of instructions/software embodied on a computer medium and executable by a computer can be comprised of a table. For purposes of this action only, the Examiner will interpret claim 7 as the apparatus containing data related to the subscription product and corresponding cost information.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the digital image print right data item" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of this action only, the Examiner will interpret that claim as a dependency of claim 14 and will interpret the print right data as that of claim 14.

Claims 17-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 17 contains the limitation "and a digital image subscription management

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apparatus according to claim 1...” in lines 2-3. It is unclear to one of ordinary skill in the art whether this claim is a dependency of claim 1 or incorporates the subject matter of claim 1 as an element. Because claims 18-32 are dependencies of claim 17, they inherit the same deficiency and are rejected on the same bases. For purposes of this action only, the Examiner interprets the claim to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 as an element.

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 24 and 25 contain the limitation “customer interaction apparatus is responsive for ...” in line 2 of the claims. It is unclear to one of ordinary skill in the art whether this apparatus is responsible for transmitting or responsive to transmitting. The specification merely states this limitation with no further elaboration (page 15). For purposes of this action only, the Examiner interprets the claim as responsive to the action.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 28 contains the limitation “system according to claim 12...” However, claim 12 is a claim to a print right, not a system. For purposes of this action only, the Examiner will interpret claim 28 to be a dependency of claim 21.

Claims 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 30 contains the limitation “customer interaction apparatus is constituted by a special design shop apparatus” in lines 1-2 of the claim. It is unclear to one of ordinary skill in the art what is a design shop apparatus. The specification merely states this limitation with no

further elaboration (page 16, lines 10-12). For purposes of this action only, the Examiner interprets the apparatus as any software capable of performing any type of designing or altering.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 31 contains the limitation “apparatus responsive for accounting the digital image print rights” in lines 2-3 of the claim. It is not clear to one of ordinary skill in the art whether this limitation is for conducting an accounting of the usage of the digital image print rights, or for counting the number of uses of the rights, or for counting the number of rights. The specification describes the accounting as “keep[ing] track of the usage of customer interaction apparatuses...” and as “generating a sharing of the revenue corresponding to the monetary price of a digital image print right...” (page 16, lines 13-26). For purposes of this action only, the Examiner will interpret claim 31 as the accounting for keeping track of the usage of the customer apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed inventions are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-9 are directed to disembodied data structure claim which are per se not statutory. *C.f. In re Wamerdam*. The preamble of the independent claim 1 and all its dependencies are directed to “a digital image subscription apparatus.” The specification

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indicates that the apparatus is likely software with a processor (page 9, line 29 through page 10, line 2). However, the claims are directed to software that can be comprised of instructions which could be in mere text form and not executable by a processor. The examiner suggests redrafting the claims to include embodying the instructions on a computer readable medium so that the claimed instructions are executable by a computer or processor.

A claim to a instructions on a computer readable medium encoded with functional descriptive material that can function with a computer to effect a practical application that results in a useful, concrete and tangible result (i.e. running an assembly line or executing a stock transaction) satisfies Section 101. *See* U.S. Patent 5,710,578 to Beauregard etc., i.e., a set of instructions in combination with a computer system. *C.f. In re Wamerdam* (data structure stored in a computer memory), *and In re Lowery*, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994) (data structure in a computer readable medium). Examples of Statutory Functional Descriptive Material are: (a) a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a functional data structure – this defines structural and functional relationships between the data structure and the hardware/software components, *see Wamerdam*; (b) a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program - this defines structural and functional relationships between the computer program and the computer itself which allows the program's functionality to be realized provided that a useful, concrete and tangible result is realized; *see* U.S. Patent 5,710,578 to Beauregard et al.

Data merely stored in a computer readable medium to be read or outputted by a computer without any functional interrelationship, and thus do not impart functionality to the computer, i.e., they are not computer components. Examples of Non-Functional Descriptive Material

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include music, literature, art, photographs, data base per se, and are directed to neither a “process” nor a “machine,” but rather embrace or overlap two different statutory classes of invention set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101, which is drafted so as to set forth the statutory classes of invention in the alternative only. *Id.* at 1551.

Claims 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed inventions are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 10-13 are directed to abstract ideas which are per se not statutory. Claims 14-16 are directed to a disembodied data structure claim (an abstract idea) which is per se not statutory. *C.f. In re Wamerdam.* The preamble of independent claim 10 and all of its dependencies are directed to “a digital image print right...” The preamble of the independent claim 14 and all its dependencies are directed to “a digital image print right data item...” To satisfy 35 U.S.C. §101, a claims must be for a practical application of an abstract idea that transforms an article or physical object to a different state or thing, or otherwise produces a useful, concrete and tangible result. To be useful, the utility of the invention has to be specific, substantial and credible. To be tangible, the claim must set forth a practical application to product a real world result. To be concrete, the process must have a result that can be substantially repeatable or product the same result again.

Data merely stored in a computer readable medium to be read or outputted by a computer without any functional interrelationship, and thus do not impart functionality to the computer, i.e., they are not computer components. Examples of Non-Functional Descriptive Material include music, literature, art, photographs, data base per se, and are directed to neither a “process” nor a “machine,” but rather embrace or overlap two different statutory classes of

invention set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101, which is drafted so as to set forth the statutory classes of invention in the alternative only. *Id.* at 1551.

Examiner Notes

(1) Claims 5, 9, 15, 24 and 28 are all interpreted in the alternative, i.e. all claims refer to the number of items preceded by “at least one of” with no conjunction between the final two items; therefore, the conjunction is presumed to be “or” and the claims are interpreted in the alternative.

(2) Claim 23 is interpreted in the alternative even though the conjunction “and” is stated because the items are preceded by “at lease one of.”

(3) Examiner cites particular pages, columns, paragraphs and/or line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-__ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gajjala et al., US 7,039,615 B1 (hereafter referred to as “Gajjala”).

Referring to claims 1, 10, 17, 19, 20 and 29. Gajjala discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus (Fig. 1, col. 10, line 44 through col. 11, line 18, and col. 15, lines 32-44 – note the apparatus is the digital rights management system comprised in part of the license server and license store) and in a digital image management system comprising a data communication network (Fig. 12 and col. 5, lines 42-55) and at least one customer interaction apparatus (Fig. 12 and col. 4, lines 50-63), the data communication network being responsive for communicating data related to digital image print rights between the at least one customer interaction apparatus and the digital image subscription management apparatus (note that the network of Fig. 12 is capable of such), which comprises subscriptions and digital image print rights for digital image printing (note that the license server comprises subscriptions and print rights, i.e. licenses for digital content, *see also* col. 17, lines 12-27 and col. 19, lines 14-24).

Referring to claims 2, 11 and 14. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the digital image print rights are comprised in digital image print right data items defining subscriptions comprised in a database (Fig. 1, col. 15, lines 32-44, col. 17, lines 12-27 and col. 19, lines 14-24 – note that the license store stores

information regarding the rights, i.e. licenses, including subscriptions, i.e. pre-determined number of plays within a pre-determined period of time).

Referring to claims 3 and 13. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the digital image print rights are transferable between digital image print right data items in the digital image management system (Fig. 1 and col. 18, lines 3-15 – note that the transferring is the issuing of licenses).

Referring to claims 4 and 12. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the digital image print rights are usable for paying for digital image printing or digital media production in the digital image management system (col. 35, line 56 through col. 36, line 3 – note that using the rights for payment is an intended use of the right which does not affect the function of storing rights or the right itself; nonetheless, Gajjala discloses that the rights can be bartered, i.e. used as payment).

Referring to claims 5 and 15. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 2 wherein each digital print right data item comprises at least one of: a number of digital image print rights, a monetary price of a digital image print right, a monetary price of the subscription, an indication of an asset related to the digital image print right, an indication of a periodic increase of the number of digital image print rights, an indication of a period at which the periodic increase is effected, a digital image print right

equivalence table, or at least one expiry time of the digital image print rights (col. 17, lines 12-27 and col. 19, lines 14-24 – note that the license can contain an expiry time).

Referring to claim 6. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the asset has the function of a currency within the digital image management system (col. 35, line 56 through col. 36, line 3 – note that the function of currency of the asset an intended use of the asset which does not affect the indication of an asset itself; nonetheless, Gajjala discloses that the rights, i.e. assets, can be bartered, i.e. used as payment having a function of currency).

Referring to claim 7. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1 which comprises at least one digital image print right equivalence table (col. 33, lines 39-58 – note that the data stored relates to cost information as to how much payment should be made to which party).

Referring to claim 8. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the subscription database presents a number of digital image print right data item types (col. 17, lines 12-27 and col. 19, lines 14-24 – note that the subscriptions, i.e. licenses, can be of a variety of types, e.g. period-based or amount based).

Referring to claims 9 and 28. Gajjala further discloses a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1 which further comprises means for at least one of:

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receiving a request for transfer of digital image print rights between subscriptions, transferring the digital image print rights between the subscriptions, receiving an instruction to create a subscription, canceling digital image print rights in line with the subscription, or increasing digital image print rights in line with the subscription (col. 18, lines 3-15 – transferring rights, i.e. licenses, and col. 20, lines 31-40 – receives instruction to create a subscription, i.e. license).

Referring to claim 16. Gajjala further discloses the data item of claim 14 wherein the digital image print right data item is loaded onto a card (col. 5, lines 11-20).

Referring to claim 18. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 17 which further comprises at least one digital image database (col. 13, lines 1-14 – note the database can be on the computer or server).

Referring to claims 21, 26 and 28. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 17 which further comprises a digital image printer or a digital media production apparatus which is connected to the data communication network (Fig. 12 and col. 5, lines 37-42 – note the printer is connected to the computer which is connected to the network).

Referring to claim 23. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 17 wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus, further comprises, or is electrically associated with, at least one of: a digital image input apparatus, a digital scanner for producing a digital image of a photography or a negative, or a roll of photographic film

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development apparatus connected to the digital scanner forming a digital image (col. 5, lines 25-29 – note the apparatus may include a scanner).

Referring to claim 24. A digital image management system according to claim 21, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is responsive to at least one of: receiving a digital image printing instruction to print a digital image, or prompting the digital image printer to print the digital image (col. 13, lines 47-54 – note that the apparatus is responsive to a request to print the digital content).

Referring to claim 25. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 18 wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is responsive to transmitting the digital image to the at least one digital image database (col. 3, lines 14-25 – note that the apparatus can obtain, i.e. be responsive to transmittals, of digital content.

Referring to claim 31. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 17 further comprising a digital image print right accounting apparatus responsive for accounting the digital image print rights (col. 15, lines 50-60 – note the accounting apparatus is the digital rights management system comprised in part of the state store and the accounting is the maintaining of information on how many renderings have in fact taken place).

Referring to claim 32. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 31, wherein the digital image print right accounting apparatus is responsive for generating a sharing of the revenue corresponding to the monetary price of a digital image print right or the monetary price of the subscription (col. 33, lines 39-67 – note the accounting apparatus is the digital rights management system capable of making payment and sharing revenue of licenses).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. §103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. §102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 22 and 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gajjala in view of Official Notice.

Referring to claim 22. Gajjala discloses a digital image management system according to claim 21 but does not specifically disclose wherein the digital printer comprises means for sending a printing report to the digital image subscription management apparatus after printing. However, it is well known in the art for printers to have means for sending a report to another apparatus after printing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the printer of Gajjala to have the means for sending a report after printing so that there is a record of the printing being completed.

Referring to claim 30. Gajjala further discloses a digital image management system according to claim 17 but does not disclose specifically wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is constituted by a special design shop apparatus. It is old and well known in the art to populate computers with design software, such as AUTOCAD. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the customer apparatus of Gajjala to have been populated with design software so that a user can create digital images.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(1) Huffman et al., US 2002/0169700 A1, discloses a digital content subscription conditioning system wherein digital assets are allocated, usage information is tracked and payments are made (*see, e.g.*, pages 2-8).

(2) Rodriguez et al., US 2003/0083948 A1, cited by applicant, discloses an asset management system that tracks usage (*see, e.g.*, pages 5-10).

(3) Brentano et al., US 2005/0033652 A1, discloses a method and system for managing digital goods (*see, e.g.*, pages 2-8).

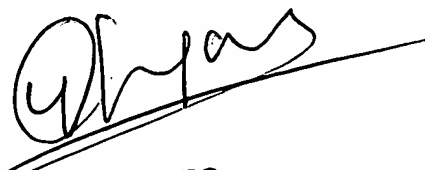
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ameer A. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-8116. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AAS

August 24, 2006


YOGESH C. GARG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600